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By: 

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Emil A. Tanagho
Rajvir Dahiya
Tom F. Lue
Gerald R. Cunha

Art Unit:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Application No.:

Filed: January 18, 2002

For: ACELLULAR MATRIX GRAFTS:
PREPARATION AND USE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-8.

Please substitute the following amended, clean version of claim 9:

9. (Amended once) A method for the preparation of a bladder acellular matrix graft, comprising:

- (a) removing mucosa from an excised bladder tissue to provide a bladder wall;
- (b) treating the bladder wall with chemical and enzyme agents to release intracellular components from said bladder wall to provide an intermediate matrix; and
- (c) solubilizing and removing cell membranes and intracellular lipids from said intermediate matrix to provide a bladder acellular matrix graft.

Please add the following new claim 24:

24. (New) An insoluble elastic matrix graft for repairing ureter or urethra smooth muscle having the following properties:
- (i) the matrix graft is derived from ureter or urethra smooth muscle tissue;
 - (ii) the matrix graft is impermeable to urine;
 - (iii) the matrix graft consists essentially of an intact framework of collagen and elastic fibers that is free of cell contents; and,
 - (iv) the framework permits growth of muscle cells within the framework.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been canceled. Claims 9-23 were the subject of a Restriction Requirement in U.S. Appln. No. 08/994,838 (now allowed). Claims 9-24 are pending. New claim 24 corresponds to claim 1 (allowed) of U.S. Appln. No. 08/994,838 but substitutes "ureter or urethra" for "bladder." Support for new claim 24 is found on page 6, line 24, where ureter or urethra are disclosed.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Emil A. Tanagho et al.
Atty. Docket No. 02307E-080710US
Page 3

PATENT

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

9. (Amended once) A method for the preparation of a bladder acellular matrix graft, comprising:

- (a) removing mucosa from an excised bladder tissue [cap] to provide a bladder wall;
- (b) treating the bladder wall with chemical and enzyme agents to release intracellular components from said bladder wall to provide an intermediate matrix; and
- (c) solubilizing and removing cell membranes and intracellular lipids from said intermediate matrix to provide a bladder acellular matrix graft.

--24. (New) An insoluble elastic matrix graft for repairing ureter or urethra smooth muscle having the following properties:

- (i) the matrix graft is derived from ureter or urethra smooth muscle tissue;
- (ii) the matrix graft is impermeable to urine;
- (iii) the matrix graft consists essentially of an intact framework of collagen and elastic fibers that is free of cell contents; and,
- (iv) the framework permits growth of muscle cells within the framework.--